

[0026] The operation and function of the timer/annunciator module are generally as follows; USER CONTROL INPUTS A,B,C > TIMER AND ANNUNCIATOR CONTROL SYSTEM> AURAL OR VISUAL ANNUNCIATOR.

PILL DISPENSER

CLAIM 1. A Pill dispenser comprising:

A circular cover comprising a porthole, mounted for rotation on a circular base with C compartments which are also suitable for containing pills, the compartments formed from sectors of an annulus of the base; One of either the base or cover is a tabs component including a ledge on which are formed at least 3 tabs; The other is a sockets component including shelf with at least 3 open-sockets and a plurality of tight-sockets intercalated with the open-sockets; Wherein the tabs and open-sockets may be aligned to provide a remove-cover orientation, but in all other orientations they are misaligned and the cover cannot be removed from the base; The tight-sockets forming an indexing apparatus whereby, when the cover is not in a remove-cover orientation, at least one of the tabs engages with a tight-socket and thus locks against rotation between the cover and the base, and the porthole overlies a compartment; And whereby the dispenser also includes a biasing spring which urges the shelf and the ledge together in an axial direction when the cover and base are not in the remove-cover orientation, and urges the base and cover to be separated in the remove-cover orientation.

Claim 2. A dispenser as in claim 1, wherein the cover is the tabs component

Claim 3. A dispenser as in claim 2, wherein the base is the socket component

Claim 4. A dispenser as in claim 1, wherein the locked position of the indexing apparatus can be over-ridden by compressing the spring and rotating the cover.

Claim 5. A dispenser as in claim 1, wherein
The base is formed with a hollow cylindrical chamber inside the annulus
The biasing spring is housed inside the chamber
The spring pushes against a wall of the chamber and the cover.

Claim 7. A dispenser as in claim 5, wherein the biasing spring is a conical disc spring.

Claim 8. A dispenser as in claim 7, wherein the conical disc spring is formed with a star-shaped central aperture.

Claim 9. A dispenser as in claim 1, including: a timer,
an operable annunciator, which is effective, when operated, to announce a warning signal, and to do so at a time that is predetermined by the timer;
the timer and the annunciator are contained in a module; and
-the module lies placed inside a hollow chamber in the base of the dispenser.

Claim 10. A dispenser as in claim 9, wherein:
the timer includes a manual control, in the form of a mechanical knob; and
the knob protrudes through a central hole in the cover.

Claim 11. A dispenser as in claim 1, where the number of tabs and sockets is four or more.

Claim 12. A dispenser as in claim 1, where the number of compartments is seven or more.